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SENATE

P.S. Resolution No. 362

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION
RECOMMENDING TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT A
STUDY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MECHANISMS TO
STRENGTHEN THE PHILIPPINE WEAVING INDUSTRY WITH THE END
IN VIEW OF PROMOTING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF PHILIPPINE
TEXTILES AND THE PRESERVATION OF THIS RICH CULTURAL
HERITAGE

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 19. of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides:

"The State shall develop a self-reliant and independent national economy effectively controlled by Filipinos.";

WHEREAS, Section 22 of the same states that:

"The State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development.";

WHEREAS, Weaving and textile manufacture is an age-old living tradition in the Philippines handed down from generation to generation, In fact the Piña cloth of Aklan was said to be traded during the Pre-Hispanic times and reached as far as Greece and Egypt during it's heyday;¹

WHEREAS, the various textiles that exist in the country such as the Abel Iloko from the Ilocos, Piña and Raffia from Aklan, Hablon from Iloilo, Abaca and Sinamay from Bicol and the Visayas and the indigenous woven products such as the T'nalak among the T'boli, Dagmay to the Mandaya, Inabal to the Bagobo, Inabu to the Manobo, Mabuel to the B'laan, and Habulan to the Higaonon, all found in Mindanao, are a testament to Filipino ingenuity and creativity;²

WHEREAS, textile products are traditionally used as blankets, tube skirts (patadyong and malong), upper garments or blouse, sling bags, table runners, placemats and napkins and other decorative and functional items;

WHEREAS, Philippine traditional textile uses organic fibers which come from plants abundant in area where these fabrics are transformed into excellent products;

¹ As cited in: <http://www.promdiliving.com/aklans-fiber-industry-weaving-a-place-in-history/> 1/31/11 2:05PM

² As cited in: <http://www.tesoros.ph/weaving.html> 1/31/11 3:00PM

quality yarns from Abaca, Pineapple and Banana are some of these raw materials in creating the rich and colorful fabrics traditional to the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the Philippines' textile industry comprised of four key sectors: production of yarn from fibres (spinning); production of fabric from yarn (weaving, circular knitting, warp knitting and raschel); decoration of fabrics (dyeing, printing and finishing); and production of fabric directly from fibre (non-woven fabrics);

WHEREAS, although traditional weaving technology is found all over the country, the textile weaving industry remains to be a cottage business whose products are in need of development assistance in the form of product design, new production machinery and weaving technology; the adoption of a system to facilitate technology transfer and marketing methodologies must also be set in place to aid the weavers in coming up with competitive products;

WHEREAS, these entrepreneurs require additional capitalization in order to enhance the market potential of their products; assistance in the form of bank referrals, including assistance on loan packages for small and medium scale enterprises and investment matching must be provided as well as making available information on engaging in joint venture projects and partnerships in order to improve the competitiveness of the industry;

WHEREAS, the pattern, style and the weaving and coloring methodology of traditional textiles are unique testaments to the indigenous genius of the Filipino, they form a rich cultural heritage which must be preserved through the institution of legal frameworks for the protection of traditional knowledge in the country;

WHEREAS, the provisions under Republic Act 8371 otherwise known as the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act, Republic Act No. 8293, or the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines, the relevant laws on Patent, Trademarks, Copyright and other economic rights are inadequate as they fail to recognize the unique concepts of traditional ownership of community in rights and responsibilities as well as the indigenous peoples concept of creation and invention;

WHEREAS, there must be a sincere and adequate move to encourage receptiveness and involvement of local weaving industries in order to strengthen this age-old tradition by encouraging their growth and competitiveness through financial programs and the adoption of a legislative framework to accord them protection.³

NOW, WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to recommend to the Senate Committee on Economic Affairs and other appropriate Committees to conduct a study, in aid of legislation on the mechanisms to strengthen the Philippine weaving with the end in view of promoting the competitiveness of Philippine textiles and the preservation of this rich cultural heritage.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR

³ As cited in: http://r0.unctad.org/trade_env/docs/philippines.pdf 1/31/11 3:00PM